



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 7

February Session, 2008

House Bill No. 5143

House of Representatives, March 6, 2008

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. ROY, R. of the 119th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING DESIGNATION OF THE LOWER FARMINGTON RIVER AND SALMON BROOK WITHIN THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) It is declared to be the
2 policy of the state of Connecticut that the portion of the Lower
3 Farmington River and Salmon Brook which is the subject of the
4 authorized study by the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook
5 Wild and Scenic River Study Committee for purposes of designation as
6 a national wild and scenic rivers system be preserved as provided for
7 in the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Public Law 90-542, as
8 amended.

9 (b) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall cooperate
10 with all relevant federal, state and local agencies to provide for such
11 designation and to implement any management plan developed in
12 accordance with the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Upon the
13 designation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook by

14 Congress, the commissioner shall notify the joint standing committee
15 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
16 environment regarding any statutory changes necessary to implement
17 the preservation and conservation of the Lower Farmington River and
18 Salmon Brook in accordance with the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers
19 Act. The commissioner shall cause a copy of this section to be
20 delivered to all United States Representatives and Senators
21 representing Connecticut in the Congress of the United States.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
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ENV *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill designates the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5143*****AN ACT CONCERNING DESIGNATION OF THE LOWER FARMINGTON RIVER AND SALMON BROOK WITHIN THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill declares it state policy that the portion of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook being studied for designation as a national wild and scenic rivers system be preserved according to the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

It requires the environmental protection commissioner to cooperate with all federal, state, and local agencies to provide for designation under the federal act, and to implement a management plan as the act requires. Once Congress designates the area, the commissioner must notify the Environment Committee of any statutory changes needed to preserve it according to the act. She must send a copy of the bill to the state's Congressional delegation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2008

BACKGROUND***Lower Farmington Wild and Scenic Feasibility Study Area***

Towns in the study area include Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury, and Windsor.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (P.L. 90-542) protects free-flowing rivers with important scenic, natural, recreational, historic, cultural, or similar values. It designates specific rivers for inclusion and prescribes the methods and standards by which additional rivers may be added.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 30 Nay 0 (02/27/2008)